

DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH SERVICES

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AHS 20
NEWS NEWS

NUMBER: 65-84
FOR RELEASE: Immediate

DATE: July 19, 1984

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In response to the discovery of combustible and toxic gases leaking into a neighborhood near the BKK landfill site in West Covina, State and Federal officials today announced immediate steps are being taken to correct the problem and ensure the public health and safety of the residents there.

The gases were discovered near 19 homes adjacent to the landfill causing the evacuation of the residents from those homes.

The State Department of Health Services and the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, working jointly with the City of West Covina, the Los Angeles County Health Department and the South Coast Air Quality Management District are developing a plan of action to monitor the gas leaks in the residential area of Lynn Court, Nanette Avenue and Leanna Drive.

Following the completion of testing and the determination of the source of the gases, an order is expected directing the operators of the BKK landfill site to install perimeter monitoring devices; expand their present gas collection wells system and to provide for the temporary relocation of the residents who were evacuated.

The gases were first discovered late Tuesday afternoon during a routine check by the Southern California Gas Company. When reported to the City of West Covina, the source of the gas was undetermined. A plan for the evacuation of the homes was devised and completed within eight hours of the initial discovery.

Further testing of the gases indicated the presence of methane. Vinyl chloride was also discovered in concentrations exceeding State air quality standards.

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Gas leaks at landfill sites are not uncommon and the measures being taken have been successful in the past. BKK is cooperating with officials to solve the problem and every effort is being made to allow residents to return to their homes as soon as possible.

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